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CASE

OF

INCISED WOUND OF THE KNEE-JOINT.

BY HENRY ELSTON, Esq.

MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE DISTRICT OF RAINFORD, UNION OF PRESCOT;
SURGEON-VACCINATOR FOR THE TOWNSHIPS OF BICKERSTAFFE AND SKELMERSDALE,
IN THE UNION OF ORMSKIRK, LANCASHIRE.

Communicated by the late Sir Astley Cooper Bart.
Surg. Surgeon to her Majesty.

PUBLISHED IN

THE GUY'S HOSPITAL REPORTS, No. XII.

1841.

Copy

Dear Sir.

Your case is a most valuable one & highly creditable to your judgement & skill & has long been 30 years ago inserted

To H. Elston Esq.

Yours faithfully
Astley Cooper

Feb 26 1840.

Dear Sir. 14 Saville Row
Jany 15. 1840

The case, of which you have sent me an account is highly interesting; & the treatment which you adopted was as judicious as it has proved to be successful.

I am dear Sir
Your very faithfully
B. C. Brodie

To H. J. Elston Esq

William Wainwright, of Rainford, aged 45, of muscular make, was, about half-past twelve o'clock on the morning of the 7th of August 1839, proceeding home with a scythe on his shoulder, the blade downwards; and, by some accident, drew it across his knee, and cut deeply into the joint. The knee being flexed, he divided the ligamentum patellæ, and cut off portions of the patella, of the inner condyle of the femur, and of the corresponding condyle of the tibia. These pieces of bone were found on the ground, after he was taken up from the spot where the accident happened, and where he had lain upwards of two hours, on a most tempestuous night. There was very little hæmorrhage, although the wound extended from the inner to the outer condyle of the knee, so that he had nearly amputated the limb. I immediately called into consultation Mr. Casey of St. Helen's: and taking into consideration the good constitution of the patient, the wound inflicted by a sharp instrument, and the small loss of blood, I suggested the propriety of trying to produce union by the first intention. In this he readily concurred.

Immediately after coming to the conclusion of trying to save the limb, I brought the lips of the wound into apposition, by the usual sutures, and strips of adhesive plaster, as in the case of an amputated thigh; covering over this dressing with folded linen, wetted in the saturnine lotion. The lotion was continued for a week, to prevent inflammation: suppuration came on about the third or fourth day, but not to any great extent. The limb was, of course, placed in a straight position, and kept so for at least three weeks. No untoward

symptom presenting itself, and no treatment being required but the ordinary one in such cases, the patient perfectly recovered, completely regained all the motions of the joint, and was able to follow his usual employment as an active farmer.

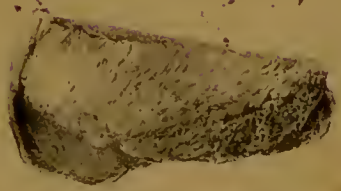
The weights of the bones, in a dried state, now in my possession, are—

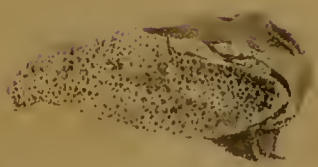
Portion of the inner condyle of the femur, ʒij. gr. vfs.
Ditto of the inner condyle of the tibia, gr. xi.
Ditto of the patella, gr. xivfs.

The accompanying drawings represent the portions cut from the joint: two of them are bone, and the others appear to be thin layers of cartilage. (See Plate.)

& the Bones &c are now in the Museum of Guy's Hospital & may be inspected by any one that may think fit to do so. This was at the request of the late Sir Astley Cooper.

The man up to this time Dec. 28th 1860 remains perfectly well — & nothing can be observed to him but a very slight pain in walking





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Printed by Kirkland

Published by S. Hughes Fleet St